

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect that I recognize the life and passing of Mr. Leland Pat Durand before this body of Congress and this nation for the sacrifices he has made to his country, for the protection of freedom and democracy throughout the world. My sincere condolences go out to his former wife Harriet Durand, their two children Harry and Theresa, and his many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Mr. Durand truly was an American hero, his loss will be deeply felt and a grateful nation will be forever in his debt.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4085, legislation to increase the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

As we debate the validity of committing young Americans to another conflict overseas I feel it is important to support legislation honoring our commitment to care for those disabled in past service to our country.

Many of our disabled veterans find themselves unable to keep pace with the cost of living as they advance in age. This is especially true for those who must rely on prescription drugs to mitigate the effects of their service-connected disabilities. These veterans must often choose between food, shelter, and medication. I support the provisions of this bill designed to mitigate these adverse economic conditions experienced by our disabled veterans.

It is extremely important that we support those who have secured our freedom in the past. As we debate the possibility of war we most honor past obligations.

**HONORING CONGREGATION
TEPHERETH ISRAEL OF NEW
BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT, ON ITS
SEVENTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY,
AND RABBI HENRY OKOLICA,
FOR HIS FORTY-TWO YEARS OF
OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO
TEPHERETH ISRAEL**

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the 76th Anniversary of Congregation Tephareth Israel in New Britain, Connecticut, and the achievements of Rabbi Henry Okolika, who is celebrating 42 years of dedicated service to the congregation. I congratulate Rabbi Okolika, the congregation and all their friends. We are proud of their dedication and grateful for their many decades of service to our community and acknowledge with gratitude their successful refurbishment of their beloved temple, one of our city's landmarks.

It was 76 years ago that Governor John H. Trumbull laid the cornerstone at 76 Winter Street. Since that time, Tephareth Israel has been a center of rich, spiritual devotion and always encouraged and recognized service to the community. The congregation became the first in Greater Hartford to make religious education available to students regardless of their financial circumstances, and over many years provided an environment for spiritual growth that gave our city many valued leaders. Perhaps the most famous was Governor Abraham Ribicoff. Governor Ribicoff, whose father was one of the early presidents of Tephareth Israel Synagogue, became the first Jewish governor of the state of Connecticut, and served as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare as well as a United States Senator.

When the sanctuary's interior was destroyed by fire in 1963, the New Britain community was moved to help rebuild it, so great was their admiration for Rabbi Okolika and Tephareth Israel. Today, 370 people are memorialized upon the walls of the Synagogue, a fitting tribute to past members and a reminder to the congregation's contribution to our community.

Since 1960, Rabbi Henry Okolika has been devoted to his faith, his congregation and to helping countless people in need. He has been a friend to innumerable individuals and an inspiration to families throughout the state. For 40 years, Rabbi Okolika hosted the television show, "Jewish Life," welcoming as his guests all religious persuasions on a wide variety of topics. The conversations reflected his thoughtful, generous character. He would conclude each broadcast with a plea to viewers to be generous in their contributions and mindful of those less fortunate. I am proud to share my hometown with Rabbi Okolika and Congregation Tephareth Israel, and honored to represent them in the United States Congress.

On October 13, 2002, the congregation and community will be celebrating their history and a dramatic renovation of their temple with a ceremony at Tephareth Israel. Past and present clergy will be honored at the celebration, including Reverend Elias Rosenbeger, Rabbi Joseph Aronson, Rabbi Jacob Weitzman, Cantor Sholom Nelson, Reverend Max Prager, Reverend Elifant Rabbi Arnold Heisler and Cantor Melvin Etra.

This special event will be more than a celebration for the congregation. It will be a remembrance by the whole community of the history of New Britain, for the founders of Tephareth Israel represent some of New Britain's most active citizens and friends of the community. Many came to America in search of relief from persecution in their native lands in Eastern Europe and Russia. These were highly learned individuals, having studied in acclaimed Talmudic schools throughout Russia, Poland and Lithuania. One such early New Britain resident was Benjamin Marholin, a grocery store owner and man of culture who was the uncle of celebrated American composer Irving Berlin. Another was Jonas Goldsmith, whose daughter Anna would become one of the organizers of the New Britain Chapter of Hadassah. Dr. Morris Dunn became a tireless advocate on behalf of Zionist causes, helping New Britain to become one of the most active centers of Zionism in the nation. All of these men and women overcame the odds through their belief in this country and their unflinching faith.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Rabbi Henry Okolika and Congregation Tephareth Israel on their respective anniversaries and the renovation of their spiritual home. I ask the House to join me in wishing them the very best for the future.

**HONORING THE TWENTY-SIX
TEACHERS FROM THE PITTS-
BURGH PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
WHO COMPLETED THE RE-
SEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR AN
URBAN TEACHERS INSTITUTE**

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my most sincere congratulations to the twenty-six teachers from the Pittsburgh Public School System who completed the Research Experience for an Urban Teachers Institute (REUTI) this summer, which was hosted in part by Carnegie Mellon University. These teachers in an effort to improve the quality of education they provide to the students of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, received valuable training that they will implement in their classrooms this fall.

Their successful completion of this five-week program which instructs middle and high school teachers to become more proficient in the teaching of math, science, and engineering, clearly demonstrates their dedication to their field and to the children that they impact on a daily basis. This knowledge will improve the educational experience of students across the Pittsburgh School System and help provide them the tools they will need as they continue their education and move into careers of their own.

At a time when our Federal Government has recommitted itself to improving our nation's schools and increasing our student's proficiency in math, science, and engineering, these teachers have proven themselves to be leaders in their field. Their efforts, together with other dedicated teachers across our nation, will help our students to again be among the top scoring student in the world. I encourage them to bring these new skills to not only their students, but to their colleagues so they may work together to provide the best education possible.

The partnership that was formed between Carnegie Mellon University and the City of Pittsburgh Schools through REUTI demonstrates the importance of all levels of education working toward the common goal of providing a higher quality education to the students in our community. Through this collaborative effort, Carnegie Mellon researchers opened their laboratories and offices to provide a welcoming environment for the teachers who were able to participate fully in ongoing research activities. As a result of the cooperation from Carnegie Mellon University, these teachers were able to get a better understanding of the culture of scientific research. This experience is something that will assist these teachers in educating their students about the daily work of a scientist.

Once again, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to each of the twenty-six teachers from the Pittsburgh area who have